

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.2% (255) reside in the Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (48) of Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.6% of admissions from the Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District were male and 24.3% were female.
- Over 54.9% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 94.1% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.9% were Latino, and 0.7% were Asian and 1.1% were other racial categories.
- 70.5% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 10.2% were married, and 12.9% reported not to be married now.
- 25.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 45.8% completed high school, and 28.6% had more than high school education.
- 41.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 7.8% of those admitted were homeless.
- 9.8% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	197	176	57	45	39	32	23
FY '96	189	159	74	46	38	51	39
FY '97	193	163	55	37	26	55	42
FY '98	231	170	74	53	40	97	67
FY '99	266	196	105	60	33	117	94
FY '00	265	211	83	45	16	106	86
FY '01	255	187	81	51	24	94	77

- Since FY 1995, residents of Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but an increase in all other drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use nearly tripled, while crack use decreased by 38%, and, alcohol, marijuana and cocaine use increased by 6%, 42%, and 13%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixteenth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	47.0%	33.7%	13.3%	1.9%	1.9%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and marijuana was higher within your District.